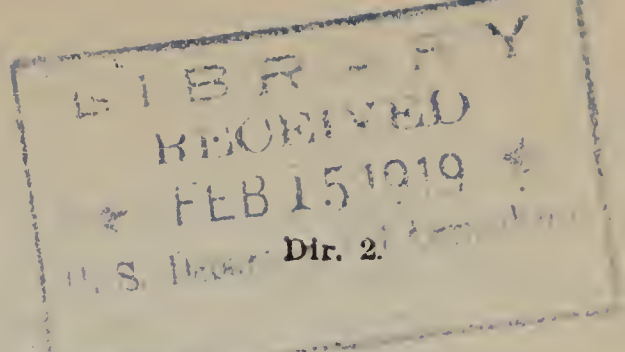


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# U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## STATES RELATIONS SERVICE

A. C. TRUE, Director.

### COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS.

When it became essential to organize the agricultural forces of the United States on a war basis and to advise both city and country people how best to increase, utilize, and conserve the food supply, it was immediately recognized that the cooperative extension system, with its combination of Federal and State administrative officers and subject-matter specialists, with county agents and farm bureaus and other local organizations, provided a very effective means for nation-wide dissemination of the needed facts, as well as for practical demonstrations of the measures required to increase agricultural production and to secure the most economical utilization of the products of the farms. That the American farmer and housewife have, in a great emergency, met practically every demand with regard to the production and conservation of food is due largely to the fact that the Government is able promptly and effectively to make known its needs through the cooperative extension service.

#### ORGANIZATION OF COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN THE UNITED STATES

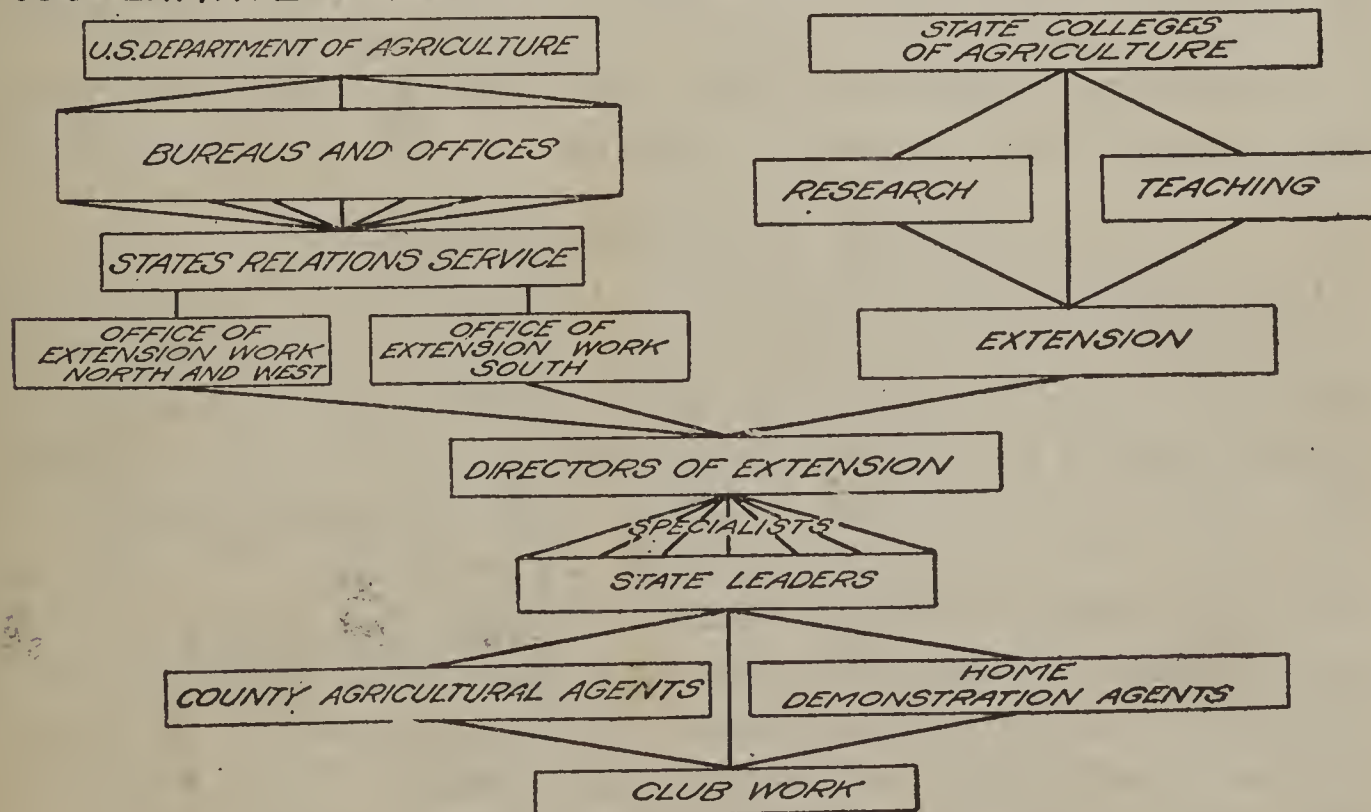


Fig. 1—Relationships of Federal and State extension agencies.



Much remains to be done to perfect this organization and make it a permanent factor in the development of the community, but a broad foundation has been laid for a service through which every farmer and housewife may come in close personal touch with a well-trained corps of men and women so linked with Federal and State institutions for the promotion of agriculture and home economics that they can readily avail themselves of the results of scientific research and practical experience the world over to aid them in their work on the farm and their life in the home.

#### HOW THE EXTENSION SERVICE OPERATES.

The extension service carries directly to the farms and homes of the country and secures the adoption in practice of the best available information regarding agriculture and home economics through (1) *county agents*, who deal with farm problems, (2) *home-demonstration agents*, who deal with problems of the home, (3) *club leaders*, who carry on extension work with young people, and (4) *specialists* in various branches of agriculture and home economics.

#### THE COUNTY AGENT.

The county agricultural agent is the local extension representative of the State agricultural college, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the people of the county. He should be a man of practical experience in farming and of such personality as will enable him to become a leader among the farmers of his county. He must also have such agricultural education and technical training as will enable him to meet the various situations which may arise in the county and answer the demands of the best as well as the poorest farmers with whom he comes in contact. Other things being equal, preference is given to graduates of agricultural colleges.

At the present time over 2,300 of the 2,936 counties in the United States have county agricultural agents.

#### DUTY OF THE COUNTY AGENT.

It is the duty of the county agent to bring to the farmers of his county on their own farms the results of scientific investigations in agriculture and the experience of successful farmers, and through demonstrations to influence the farmers to put these into practice. He assists in reorganizing and redirecting the agriculture of the community and assists all economic and social forces working for the improvement of agriculture and country life. He gives instruction not only in those subjects which are generally recognized under the head of improved agricultural practices but also in farm management, marketing, and purchasing supplies. He carries on a great part of this instruction through farm demonstrations. In

these demonstrations the farmer undertakes with his own labor and entirely at his own expense, to grow some particular crop or live stock under the agent's supervision and direction.

#### **THE COUNTY AGENT IS IN TOUCH WITH FARMERS.**

During last year approximately 500,000 farmers conducted demonstrations of various kinds, in cooperation with the county agent. The acreage in crop demonstrations covered an aggregate of 5,000,000 acres. The county agent held 135,000 meetings, attended by 7,000,000 farmers, made 1,200,000 personal visits to farms, and had 1,250,000 office calls by farmers for advice. The county agent works, as far as possible, with existing organizations, such as granges, farmers' unions, alliances, organized farmers' institutes, community clubs, and the like, but may also aid in forming new organizations especially suited to support his work.

#### **THE HOME-DEMONSTRATION AGENT.**

The extension service aids both country and city homes through the home-demonstration agent in much the same manner that it helps the farmer through the county agent.

#### **HOME-DEMONSTRATION WORK IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.**

Under the leadership of the county home-demonstration agent, farm women are given instruction along many lines, such as food production; gardening; orchard management; poultry production; food conservation, such as canning, drying, and curing of meats, preserving fruits and vegetables for future use, home manufacture of cheese and butter; proper diets; clothing; shelter; home conveniences; labor-saving devices; and many other practical things required in the home. The work is generally conducted through organized groups of women. The organization and method of conducting the work vary somewhat in the different States. In some of the States the home-demonstration agent operates through the same organization as the county agent, only working with the women of the family instead of the men, while in other States the women of the communities have been organized into separate voluntary organizations or clubs for the purpose of receiving instruction. The women instructed are expected to test out or "demonstrate" in their own homes the instructions received.

#### **HOME-DEMONSTRATION WORK IN CITIES.**

The Food Production Act authorized the appointment of women to work in the cities. These women work in much the same manner as the county home-demonstration agent, except that they carry on their activities through organized groups of city women. Much of



this war work has been along the line of teaching conservation of wheat through the use of wheat substitutes, in the saving of sugar, fats and meat needed for shipment overseas, and in encouraging home gardens and the use of locally produced food supplies. This necessitated the careful study of war-time diet and the handling of substitutes for the accustomed foods. In many cases the home-demonstration agents have given great assistance by advising as to the expenditure of the income, both as regards the food needs of the family and the purchasing power of the dollar.

At present home-demonstration agents are employed in over 1,400 counties and 180 cities.

### **BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK.**

Extension work among young people usually has been conducted through clubs organized for that purpose. Boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 18 are admitted to these clubs, the work being conducted very largely in cooperation with school officials and teachers and other organizations interested in extension work. These clubs are supervised by State agents or club leaders located at the agricultural colleges, who represent both the college and the department. The work in the county is carried on by the county agent, home-demonstration agent, or local club leader. In most of the States prizes are offered in these clubs which have educational value, such as scholarships in regular and short courses at the agricultural colleges, trips to points of interest, etc. Over 2,000,000 boys and girls have been enrolled as club members during the present year.

#### **BOYS' CLUBS.**

The oldest and by far the most widespread organization of this character is the corn club. The members enter into competition in corn growing on an acre of ground, on their fathers' farms, as a rule. Prizes are provided and the basis of award is the largest production at the lowest cost, with best exhibit of 10 ears and best story on the year's work. Definite instructions in preparation of the soil, planting, cultivation, etc., are given to the members. They are taught valuable lessons about the handling of the soil, selection of good seed, improvement of varieties, use of fertilizers, cost accounting, etc. Similar clubs have also been organized for the growing of home gardens, potatoes, cotton, grain and apples, as well as in the raising of pigs, sheep, calves, and poultry.

#### **GIRLS' CLUBS.**

The girls' club work was first begun with the home canning club. Girls from 10 to 18 years of age are enrolled to plant and cultivate a garden of one-tenth of an acre. The most important part of the

training, however, is the canning of products of the garden for home and market. Prizes are awarded on the basis of the quality and quantity of the products of the garden and the variety, quality, and quantity of the canned product, the profit shown by cost accounting, and the written account of how the crop was made. A uniform club label is provided and a standard weight and grade of canned product is fixed for marketing purposes. Encouragement is given to cooperative marketing.

Other clubs have been formed to teach gardening, canning and drying of vegetables and fruits for home and market and thus promote the utilization of the surplus and waste products of the farm and garden; to teach profitable farm poultry raising; to provide a means for young people to earn money at home; and to pave the way for practical demonstrations in home economics and stimulate co-operation among members of the family and the community.

#### SPECIALISTS.

Both the State agricultural colleges and the Department of Agriculture have specialists in various branches of agriculture and home economics, who aid county agents and home-demonstration agents in their work, conduct extension schools in rural communities, general neighborhood meetings, conferences, etc., and also give direct instruction to farmers in counties where there are no county agents. Specialists are extension agents who have a very thorough knowledge of some particular line of work and are efficient in presenting it to the county and home-demonstration agents and to the people. They may be differentiated from the agents in the counties in that these agents have to cover the entire field of agriculture or home economics, whereas the specialists' field of work is generally limited to some particular subject, such as dairying, horticulture, poultry raising, and food and nutrition.

#### EXTENSION SCHOOLS.

In addition to the work outlined above, the State colleges of agriculture conduct extension schools, which consist of short, practical courses of instruction, accompanied by demonstrations, illustrated lectures, and exhibits, organized and conducted in rural communities by specialists attached to the agricultural colleges. The local arrangements are often made by the county agents, and these schools usually are planned to assist the county agent in the development of extension projects undertaken in the county. The schools vary in length, in most instances extending over the greater part of a week.



## ORGANIZATION.

### IN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

The States Relations Service is that branch of the United States Department of Agriculture which represents the Secretary of Agriculture in the administration and supervision of all cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics. Through the Office of Extension Work in the South and Office of Extension Work in the North and West, it gives direct financial aid in the employment of the county and home-demonstration agents and boys' and girls' club leaders, supervises the funds appropriated by the Federal Government direct to the State colleges for extension work, and correlates the activities of the various bureaus and offices of the department with the work that is being carried on by the State colleges of agriculture.

### IN THE STATE.

The cooperative agreement between the Department of Agriculture and the State colleges of agriculture provides that each college shall organize and maintain an administrative division for the management and conducting of extension work in agriculture and home economics. At the head of this division is a director selected by the college and acceptable to the department, who administers all of the extension work in the State. In some States, subordinate to the director is a State leader, or agent, who has charge of the county-agent work and boys' club work, the agent in charge of the club work reporting to the State agent, or leader. In other States there is a separate State leader for club work, reporting to the director. The administration of activities of the home-demonstration agent parallels that for the county-agent work.

In addition to the above agents, there are other officers, generally known as specialists, who assist the director. They are engaged in conducting extension schools and otherwise cooperating with the county agent in the instruction of farmers and their families.

### IN THE COUNTY.

In order to make the work effective within the county, local organizations, such as county councils, county boards of agriculture, and farm bureaus, have been formed to cooperate with the State college of agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture in employing the county and home-demonstration agents and in aiding them in carrying on their work. These county organizations are generally composed of farmers and others in the county interested in agriculture. As a part of the organization, there are local clubs or committees who aid the agent in the different communities of his county.

At present over 1,000,000 farmers are members of organizations assisting the county agent in his work. In the majority of counties



the club work is carried on by the county agents and home-demonstration agents; however, in certain counties paid local leaders are employed.

### **FINANCES.**

As a general rule, the county agricultural agents and the home-demonstration agents are placed in counties only when there is financial cooperation either from the county government or from some organization within the county assisting in the work.

During the present year (1918-19) \$15,000,000 has been allotted for the various lines of work, of which \$6,600,000 is derived from funds directly appropriated to the United States Department of Agriculture, \$2,580,000 from Federal Smith-Lever, \$2,100,000 from State Smith-Lever, \$2,100,000 from county authorities and organizations, and the remainder from the State colleges and local organizations.

### **SMITH-LEVER FUNDS.**

Federal Smith-Lever funds are those obtained under the provision of the cooperative agricultural extension act of May 8, 1914, which stipulates that each State should receive \$10,000 annually for cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics, making a total of \$480,000 per annum, beginning with the fiscal year 1914-15. For the fiscal year 1915-16 it provided \$600,000 additional to be distributed among the several States in the proportion that the rural population of each State bears to the total population of all the States, as determined by the last census. This amount is to be increased by \$500,000 each year until the fiscal year 1922-23, when the total amount reaches \$4,580,000. This additional appropriation does not become available to a State until an equal amount has been provided by the State. The aggregate sums thus required to be provided by the States will be \$4,100,000 for the fiscal year 1922-23, and annually thereafter. These latter funds are generally known as State Smith-Lever funds.

The total amount provided for under the terms of the cooperative extension act for the fiscal year 1922-23, and annually thereafter, will therefore be \$8,680,000.

### **HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE EXTENSION SERVICE**

If the farmer or members of his family desire the cooperation of the State agricultural college in solving any farm or home problems, application should first be made to the county agent, if there is one; if there is no agent in the county, then to the director of extension at the State agricultural college. City people may apply to the local representatives of the extension service or to the State director of extension. Counties or cities desiring to organize for extension work should take the matter up with the State director of extension.

# OFFICIALS IN CHARGE OF COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK.

## OFFICERS OF THE STATES RELATIONS SERVICE.

A. C. True, director.

Bradford Knapp, chief, Office of Extension Work in the South.

C. B. Smith, chief, Office of Extension Work in the North and West.

## STATE OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF EXTENSION WORK.

ALABAMA.—J. F. Duggar, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn.

ARIZONA.—E. P. Taylor, College of Agriculture, University of Arizona, Tucson.

ARKANSAS.—W. C. Lassetter, College of Agriculture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

CALIFORNIA.—W. T. Clarke, College of Agriculture, University of California, Berkeley.

COLORADO.—H. T. French, State Agricultural College of Colorado, Fort Collins.

CONNECTICUT.—H. J. Baker, Connecticut Agricultural College, Storrs.

DELAWARE.—H. Hayward, Delaware College, Newark.

FLORIDA.—P. H. Rolfs, College of Agriculture, University of Florida, Gainesville.

GEORGIA.—J. Phil Campbell, Georgia State College of Agriculture, Athens.

IDAHO.—L. W. Fluharty, The State House, Boise.

ILLINOIS.—W. F. Handschin, College of Agriculture, University of Illinois, Urbana.

INDIANA.—G. I. Christie<sup>1</sup>, Purdue University, Lafayette.

IOWA.—R. K. Bliss, Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Ames.

KANSAS.—E. C. Johnson, Kansas State Agricultural College, Manhattan.

KENTUCKY.—Fred Mutchler, College of Agriculture, University of Kentucky, Lexington.

LOUISIANA.—W. R. Perkins, Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, University Station, Baton Rouge.

MAINE.—L. S. Merrill, College of Agriculture, University of Maine, Orono.

MARYLAND.—T. B. Symons, Maryland State College of Agriculture, College Park.

MASSACHUSETTS.—W. D. Hurd, Massachusetts Agricultural College, Amherst.

MICHIGAN.—R. J. Baldwin, Michigan Agricultural College, East Lansing.

MINNESOTA.—A. D. Wilson, College of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, University Farm, St. Paul.

MISSISSIPPI.—E. R. Lloyd, Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College, Agricultural College.

MISSOURI.—A. J. Meyer, College of Agriculture, University of Missouri, Columbia.

MONTANA.—F. S. Cooley, Montana State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Bozeman.

NEBRASKA.—C. E. Gunnels, College of Agriculture, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

NEVADA.—C. A. Norcross, College of Agriculture, University of Nevada, Reno.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.—J. C. Kendall, New Hampshire College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts, Durham.

NEW JERSEY.—L. A. Clinton, State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts of Rutgers College and State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick.

NEW MEXICO.—A. C. Cooley, New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, State College.

NEW YORK.—A. R. Mann, New York State College of Agriculture, Ithaca.

NORTH CAROLINA.—B. W. Kilgore, North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering, West Raleigh.

NORTH DAKOTA.—G. W. Randlett, North Dakota Agricultural College, Agricultural College.

OHIO.—C. S. Wheeler, College of Agriculture, Ohio State University, Columbus.

OKLAHOMA.—J. A. Wilson, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, Stillwater.

OREGON.—O. D. Center, Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis.

PENNSYLVANIA.—M. S. McDowell, Pennsylvania State College, State College.

RHODE ISLAND.—A. E. Stene, Rhode Island State College, Kingston.

SOUTH CAROLINA.—W. W. Long, Clemson Agricultural College of South Carolina, Clemson College.

SOUTH DAKOTA.—Christian Larsen, South Dakota State College, Brookings.

TENNESSEE.—C. A. Keffer, College of Agriculture, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

TEXAS.—Clarence Ousley<sup>2</sup>, Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, College Station.

UTAH.—J. T. Caine, III<sup>3</sup>, Agricultural College of Utah, Logan.

VERMONT.—Thomas Bradlee, University of Vermont and State Agricultural College, Burlington.

VIRGINIA.—J. M. Jones, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg.

WASHINGTON.—W. S. Thornber, State College of Washington, Pullman.

WEST VIRGINIA.—C. R. Titlow, College of Agriculture, West Virginia University, Morgantown.

WISCONSIN.—K. L. Hatch, College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

WYOMING.—A. E. Bowman, College of Agriculture, University of Wyoming, Laramie.

<sup>1</sup>T. A. Coleman, acting in charge.

<sup>2</sup>T. O. Walton, acting in charge.

<sup>3</sup>William Peterson, acting in charge.